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Wisconsin Keeps Track of Radicals

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MADISON, Wis. — Secret files on student radicals and activist organizations in Wisconsin are being compiled by the Wisconsin attorney general.

Atty. Gen. Robert Warren has confirmed the collection of names of students involved in any campus organization preaching opposition to a university or college administration.

"All we're trying to do is gather strategic intelligence," Warren said. "We're interested in the names of militant activists who pose law enforcement threats."

THE NAMES and other information pertaining to student radicals are being filed with records on organized crime in the attorney general's office.

A letter sent March 18 to several Wisconsin police chiefs and other law enforcement agencies in the state by Warren asked for help in gathering any information relating to student radicals or revolutionary student organizations.

Members of the attorney general's criminal investigating unit also have been assigned to help compile a file on student radicals at all Wisconsin college campuses.

Warren hinted a week ago that such information was being gathered. The hint came during testimony before a Wisconsin legislative committee investigating campus disorders.

HE SAID at that time that agents from his office were attending open meetings of the students for Democratic Society (SDS) and other campus rallies.

Following the legislative meeting an SDS representative protested to one lawmaker that some students may fear speaking or becoming identified at meetings if state investigators keep a file on them.

The youth protested the actions of the state agents as a violation of academic freedom.

The files also contain the comments of students at meetings and rallies as well as the location and time of a particular gathering. They are kept in a huge vault in the attorney general's office in the State Capitol.

DAN HANLEY, head of the criminal investigation division, said the information is not for public scrutiny and is being treated as if it were confidential police material.

Warren said his office was not satisfied with information provided by the University of Wisconsin on students and organizations participating in the University's disorders in February. He said it now was necessary for the state to maintain its own record on the students.

The names of leaders of SDS chapters in the state, those of black student organizations and the leaders of the Oshkosh State University campus disruption last fall are contained in the new file.

Warren noted that in one case at Eau Claire State University, the SDS chapter changed its name to Campus Independent Action (CIA), a swipe at the ultra-secret U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

HE SAID information now being collected also would be exchanged with other police agencies "as it becomes relevant" to law enforcement.

Warren recently reported to Illinois state authorities

the presence of a Black Panther speaker from Chicago, Ill., on the University of Wisconsin campus in violation of bail regulations.

"This is the kind of information we can exchange with other states," he said.

Warren also said more information than what now is provided by the universities is needed in case the attorney general's office becomes involved in prosecutions against campus disruptors. The attorney general's office now is representing the U.S. in several cases against student protesters.